

EUPHYDRYAS AURINIA ROTT. IN SOUTH EAST ENGLAND.—I have to report the probable destruction of yet another locality for the Marsh fritillary *Euphydryas aurinia* Rott. This butterfly thrived on a small piece of rough ground near Guildford in Surrey; but on inspection of the site on suitable days in late May and early June this year no *aurinia* were seen, and I was horrified to discover that the whole area had been ravaged by a fairly recent fire. On enquiry from local people this fire seems to have occurred in mid April—just when the larvae would have been at their most vulnerable to this hazard.

This is the third *aurinia* locality I know that has been lost in the South East over the last four years. Dichling Common was ploughed up in 1969, and last year a piece of heathland on the edge of Woolmer Forest where the Marsh Fritillary occurred was burnt by a misguided Botanist. I understand *E. aurinia* is still reported from the Dunsfold area, but I personally have not met with it there since a woodland habitat was destroyed by the Forestry Commission several years ago.

This butterfly has always been of particular interest to me, and I know many of its colonies from Argyll in Scotland (where it is widespread), through Cumberland, down to Dorset, Devon and Cornwall in the south; but in Surrey, Sussex and East Hants., I suspect that *aurinia* colonies are now very few and far between. I would welcome any news of this butterfly in these counties and urge that the attention of the respective County Naturalist Trusts be drawn to any remaining localities.

Incidentally in this aberrant season I saw fresh *aurinia* on the wing in South Devon on July the first.—Dr C. J. LUCKENS, 52 Thorold Road, Southampton, Hants., 17.x.1972.

APAMEA LATERITIA HUFN. A THIRD BRITISH RECORD. — On the morning of 18th July 1972, Bernard Skinner showed me a fine specimen of *Apamea lateritia* Hufn. which he had removed from his m.v. trap a few hours earlier; this was the second British specimen.

The following morning, when going through the contents of my garden trap, I was astonished to see a specimen of *lateritia* on the very last piece of egg carton in the trap. I boxed the moth without difficulty, and as it seemed settled, lifted the box to have a closer look at my prize through the open end of the box. This was a fatal mistake, for within a few seconds, it suddenly turned and bolted and was not seen again, although I ran two additional m.v. lights in the vicinity of my garden the following night in the hope of re-tapping it.

Whilst I am loth to record "the one that got away" I feel that the occurrence of such a rare migrant should not go without notice. I have no doubt whatever about the identity of the moth, having carefully examined the example taken by Mr Skinner the previous day.—D. O'KEEFFE, 51 Parkhill Road, Bexley, Kent. 12.x.1972.